

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

2017

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

No experience necessary, one-time volunteers are welcome.

4th Tuesday of each month, 9-11:30am

Garlic Mustard Grabbin'

March 28 / Trotter Road Entrance

Volunteers pull out Garlic mustard alongside our trails each March and April. Our goal is to maintain previously cleared patches and to find and remove any new or remaining satellite mustard invasions. This activity restricts the plants' further spread. A portion of the event is spent searching for and yanking up Garlic mustard in the area where we previously employed goats to graze on invasive plants. Keeping the mustard out of this locale allows the native flora to regain a foothold.

Garlic Mustard Pulling & Spring Flower Watching

April 25 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

Spend a fair amount of time pulling up invasive garlic mustard, but we will also search for and identify many species of spring ephemeral flowers. If we are lucky, our trip will coincide with the gorgeous showing of Virginia bluebell blooms along the river. The walking route is determined by where we find the mustard. Be ready for vigorous garlic mustard pulling paired with a leisurely stroll in the forest.

Mile-a-Minute Melee

May 23 / Trotter Road Entrance

Non-native, invasive plants are a real threat to our habitat restoration efforts, particularly in our youngest meadow. Several vines and other vine-like plants are the worst offenders of the trails, meadows, and planting sites within the Woodcock Habitat Management Area. Come out and assist us in removing vines such as: Mile-a-minute, Asiatic bittersweet, Porcelainberry, and Japanese honeysuckle.

Barberry Bonanza

June 27 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

Japanese barberry is a formidable foe of the environmental area. Controlling this nuisance plant requires continued action over many years. Luckily our steadfast helpers are adept at removing it. On this day, we'll dig, yank and wrench these spiny shrubs from the ground. We might even remove some invasive basketgrass too. Long pants and shirt sleeves are a must!

Autumn Olive Extermination

September 26 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

Autumn olive shrubs are an unwelcome remnant of the game farm that once existed in this area. Olive is a relentless invader so we need to implement a variety of control methods over the course of several years. Thankfully, we are making great headway in an area that we expand upon this morning. Volunteers cut down olives to make room for park staff to return and perform subsequent herbicide treatments. A small number of Japanese barberry shrubs are also dug up and discarded.

Planting Party

October 24 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

For several years now volunteers have worked exhaustively to clear out invasive shrubs from a section of forest understory situated between two trails. Finally, there is room enough to plant a mixture of native plants that belong there. During this event we install and shelter a small variety of native trees and shrubs while reflecting on all the prior hard work required to prepare for this occasion.

Autumn Olive Extermination #2

November 28 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

We have been fighting invasive olive since the park opened. On this morning, we continue our work to rid the MPEA of this woody pest. Our energy focuses on expanding the same project area treated in September. Secondary to the olive cutting will be removing invasive Japanese barberry when found. Repeat efforts by volunteers have resulted in terrific visible progress at this site meaning that each year we should be able to plant more natives in place of the invasives!

Information

Jeff Claffy, Assistant Natural Resources Manager, MPEA, 410-313-6209
or jclaffy@howardcountymd.gov.



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS



flickr



HoCoParks
APP

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

2017

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROJECT



The Conservation Stewardship Project, a joint program of the Howard County Master Gardeners and the Howard County Recreation & Parks, targets the problem of controlling invasive exotic species in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA). Volunteer work dates occur monthly from March through November, skipping July and August. Each date includes an educational component concerning the target invasive species or work area for the day.

The MPEA, established in 1996, is 1,021 acres in size and contains a diversity of habitat types. There are upland and bottomland hardwood forest, fields, wetlands, ponds and riparian habitats. The primary components of the MPEA's mission are natural resources management, education, research and recreation.

Driving Directions:

South Wind Circle Entrance to MPEA

Route 29 to Route 108 west towards Clarksville, or Route 32 to Route 108 east. Turn onto Trotter Road to South Wind Circle (about 1 mile). Enter the circle and proceed to trailhead on left (opposite Misty Top Path).

Trotter Road Entrance to MPEA

From Route 29 at Route 32: Take 32 west to the Great Star Drive exit. Turn right onto Great Star Drive. Then make a right onto Summer Sunrise. Continue to Trotter Road and make a left. Proceed about 1 mile to the parking area on the right just beyond the small traffic circle.

From Route 29 at Route 108: Take Route 108 west and continue past Centennial Lane. Proceed past Harpers Farm Road to Trotter Road and make a left. Continue to the parking area on the left. If you reach the small traffic circle, you've gone too far.

Please carpool.



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS



flickr



HoCoParks
APP